

# THE FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

## FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2001022080

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Governor

*Mary D. Nichols*  
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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. PURPOSE OF THE RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT**

This report has been prepared to respond to comments submitted on the March 2003 Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park. The Draft EIR identifies the potential environmental consequences associated with implementation of the Preliminary General Plan.

This document responds to comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR and makes revisions, as necessary, in response to these comments or to clarify any previous errors, omissions, or misinterpretations of material in the plan.

### **B. FINAL EIR**

This document, together with the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR, constitutes the Final EIR upon certification by the Department of Parks and Recreation that the Final EIR is complete and adequate under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **C. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency for preparation of the General Plan. Lead agencies are required to consult with other public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

In accordance with CEQA, Section 21091 and State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15073, the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR for The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park was circulated for a 45-day public review and comment period. During this review period, public agencies, private groups and associations, and individuals were provided the opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the document, including the evaluation of potential project-related environmental impacts and proposed mitigation.

The public was advised of the availability of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR through public notices, a newsletter, and notification on the Department of Parks and Recreation web site as well as the Santa Cruz State Parks web site. The public notice (Notice of Availability) was posted in the local newspaper, the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR were also available for review at the following locations: California State Parks – Santa Cruz District Office, Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz City Library, Aptos Library, and on the above listed web sites.

The mandated 45-day public review and comment period began on March 27, 2003 and ended on May 12, 2003. Copies of all written comments received on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR during the comment period are contained in this report.

The Preliminary General Plan and Final EIR will be presented to the State Park and Recreation Commission at a public hearing on August 22, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. in the Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium of the Santa Clara County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California. At this time the Commission will consider the Department's recommendation regarding approval of the General Plan and EIR. The Acting Director of State Parks, or her designee, will certify the EIR based on the findings in the Notice of Determination.

## **II. LIST OF COMMENTING AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS**

Written comments from the following list were submitted to the California Department of Parks and Recreation during the public review period on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (unless otherwise noted). The comments are grouped by the affiliation of the commenting entity as follows: federal, state, regional, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals.

### **A. FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL AGENCIES**

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments\*  
County of Santa Clara, Parks and Recreation Department  
Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District  
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration, Southwest Region\*

### **B. ORGANIZATIONS**

Advocates for Nisene Marks State Park (Jeff Hicks, Leslie Johnson)  
Citizens for the Preservation of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park  
(Wittwer & Parkin, LLP - William P. Parkin representing)  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (L. Craig Britton)  
Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (Baskin & Grant, LLP - David Green Baskin  
representing)  
Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP) (Paul Nam)\*  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (Leda Beth Gray)  
Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Regional Group (George Jammal, including petition  
with 116 signatures)  
Stewards of Soquel Forest (Patty Ciesla)  
Web of Life Field School (Heather Butler)

### **C. INDIVIDUALS**

Richard J. Andre  
Rich Apple  
Mark Farber, PhD  
Emma Wagner Fichter  
Kaitilin Gaffney, Esq.\*  
Penny Hanna and Slim Hedpern  
Sandra Henn

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\* Comments received after deadline

Wilbur Hoff and Kris Muller  
Eliece Horton  
Gail H. Jack  
Edna Lee Kelly  
Laura Leet  
Elise Legare  
Mrs. Jeanne W. Lilly  
Nancy Lockwood  
Lynora and Paul L'Wine  
Dan Miller  
Kitty Miller  
Steve Miller  
Robert F. Mitchell  
Valerie Nelson  
Julie O'Rielly  
Patricia Rayne  
Dennis and Marty Renault  
Pauline Seales\*  
Anna Seliskar  
Tom Sharp  
Marcia L. Smith  
Mrs. Seely Sumpf  
Jun Sunseri  
Allen C. Utterback  
Michael J. Vandeman  
Harold Widom

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\* Comments received after deadline

### **III. COMMENTS AND RESPONSE**

This section contains a reproduction of each letter received that commented on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The entire set of Department responses is followed by correspondence from The Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, followed by each comment letter, in order of the date received. Specific comments are annotated in the margin of each letter by consecutive numbers.

## **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**